

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01776 031215 Z

15

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-05 PM-03 INR-10 CIAE-00 IGA-02 PA-02

PRS-01 EUR-06 SS-07 /096 W
----- 092375

P R 031135 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO COMSIXTHFLT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1368
DOD
CINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR

UNCLAS TUNIS 1776

AIDAC FOR DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

FOR ADMIRAL MILLER FROM AMBASSADOR SEELYE

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: SWEL, TS
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT: HATS OFF TO
THE SIXTH FLEET

REF: A. TUNIS 1717; B. CTF 60 MSG 010202 Z APRIL 73 (SITREP 12)

1. I WISH TO EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION
FOR THE SUPERB MANNER IN WHICH THE SIXTH FLEET CAME TO THE
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE OF TUNISIA LAST WEEK. THE EX-
PEDITIOUSNESS OF YOUR RESPONSE WAS IMPRESSIVE. AS I
HAVE ALREADY REPORTED TO WASHINGTON, THE FIRST U. S.
HELICOPTERS WERE ON THE GROUND IN TUNIS 17 HOURS AFTER
PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA REQUESTED USG ASSISTANCE LATE
MARCH 28, AND 15 1/2 HOURS AFTER I SPOKE PERSONALLY
WITH YOU BY RADIO. THE FACT THAT CARRIER TASK FORCE
60 LED BY ADMIRAL TURNER AND THE USS FORRESTAL COMMENCED
RESCUE OPERATIONS THE FOLLOWING MORNING MADE A VERY
FAVORABLE IMPACT ON THE TUNISIANS, AND PROVIDED DRAMATIC
EVIDENCE OF THE ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS OF THE UNITED STATES
TO HELP ITS FRIENDS IN TIMES OF NEED. THIS SWIFT SIXTH
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FLEET RESPONSE UNDOUBTEDLY SAVED LIVES. WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS. AND I APPRECIATED YOUR BRIEF, PERSONAL VISIT HERE AT THE HIGH POINT OF OPERATIONS.

2. IN DECORATING ADMIRAL TURNER AND CAPTAIN LINDER ON MARCH 31, PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA SPOKE IN EXTREMELY MOVING TERMS OF HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR THE UNITED STATES AND OF HIS GRATITUDE TO TEGIMES," DUTCH ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECT INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS FORCES, AT LEAST IN INITIAL PHASE, WOULD HAVE ON DEFENSE BUDGETS OF WE COUNTRIES INVOLVED. VAN EEKELEN SAID DUTCH WERE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY " CASSANDRA" ATTITUDE TAKEN BY DUCCI AND WERE AMONG THOSE PRESSING FOR ITALIAN CLARIFICATION OF POSSIBLE EFFECT OF MBFR ON WESTERN EUROPEAN UNIFICATION. MIDDENDORF

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TUNIS01776
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730432/aaaahmwi.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.TUNIS 1717, B.CTF 60 MSG 010202 Z APRIL 73 (SI
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Dec-2001 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971120
Subject: TUNISIAN DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT: HATS OFF TO THE SIXTH FLEET
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SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005